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To: hv2b@nih.gov (Harold Varmus)

From: Cozzarelli <ncozzare@socrates.berkeley.edu>

Subject: Unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam ejournal

Cc: pbrown@cmgm.stanford.edu (Pat Brown)

Harold,

I think that a critical issue is why should NIH be in the business of putting all journals other than ebiomed out of business. This is Pat's oft-stated goal, an unam sanctam et catholicam ejournal. This drastic step would be justified, if journals were serving science very badly. They should be doing better, and I think that the establishment by NIH of an eprint server and an ejournal of some kind would be a great service to science. Having that journal replace all other journals, Pat's one stop shopping proposal, though is a very poor idea. We are served well by a plurality of points of view. It is good that the societies try to promote their own fields by developing their own journals, with their own editorial boards and standards. It is good that journals compete with each other. Journals should go out of business as others are formed to keep up with the changes in science. Why should the lively current marketplace be replaced by a single U. S. government run journal?

If you also believe that the NIH sponsored ebiomed initiative should not have as its goal a complete monopoly on bioscience publishing, then a statement by you to that effect will make it much more likely that societies will help make the NIH journal a success.

I stand behind no one in my admiration of Pat's ingenious and altruistic proposals. They will surely result in highly beneficial changes, and that is why I have invited him to address the PNAS editorial board later this month. But I do think that an adversarial stance between ebiomed and all other journals now and forever after is not in anyones best's interests.

Nick

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